

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 02870 282135Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05
MCT-01 IO-13 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
TRSE-00 /083 W

-----008942 282141Z /70

O R 282016Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4720
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PORT
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USCINCSO QUARRY HGTS, CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2870

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, DR
SUBJECT: FIRST SIGNS OF CHANGE: WESSIN IS ALLOWED TO RETURN

1. AFTER YEARS OF EXILE IMPOSED BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER IN A DRAMATIC 1971 TELEVISION DENUCIATION OF PLOTTING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, GEN. (RET.) ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN RETURNED HOME LAST NIGHT TO AN EXCITED AND ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME BY HIS FOLLOWERS IN PARTIDO QUISQUEYANO DOMINICANO, WHICH FARED SO DISASTROUSLY AT THE POLLS MAY 16.
2. WESSIN, WHOSE INABILITY TO EXPLOIT HIS TACTICAL ADVANTAGES AT THE DUARTE BRIDGE IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE DOMINICAN REVOLUTION LED TO THE AMERICAN INTERVENTION OF APRIL 28, 1965, ANNOUNCED ON ARRIVAL THAT HE HAS COME HOME TO ORGANIZE HIS FOLLOWERS FOR THE 1982 ELECTIONS.

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3. IN THE MEANTIME, HE SAID, HE IS DISPOSED TO COOPERATE WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION THAT WILL TAKE POWER AUGUST 16. HE AND HIS FOLLOWERS, HE SAID, ARE READY "TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PEACE AND TRANQUILITE OF ALL DOMINICANS." OTHER COMMENTS IN THIS VEIN WERE MADE IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS.

4. COMMENT: WITHOUT FANFARE OR ANY ADVANCE NOTICE, PRESIDENT BALAGUER APPREARS TO HAVE LIFTED THE LONG-STANDING IMPEDIMENT TO WESSIN'S RETURN, SOMETHING THE PRESIDENT HAS STOUTLY RESISTED FOR YEARS. HIS DETERMINATION TO KEEP THE RIGHT-WING, STRONGLY ANTICOMMUNIST WESSIN OUT OF THE COUNTRY (HE RECENTLY HAS LIVED IN CURACAO) HAS HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE DOMINICAN MILITARY, WHO HAVE ALWAYS FEARED THE OLD BATTLER AS A CONGENITAL PLOTTER AGAINST THE BALAGUER GOVERNMENT. WHILE WESSIN MIGHT BE UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS IN THE DAYS AHEAD, WE DO NOT BELIEVE HE RESPRESENTS MUCH AS A POLITICAL FORCE HERE. NONETHELESS, HE WILL BE WATCHED BY EVERYONE.
YOST

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, DR, (WESSIN Y WESSIN, ELIAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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